

operated by the sampling circuit and for holding and outputting the recognized signal except when the signal is recognized...

REMARKS

Claims 17-55 are pending, claims 1-16 having been canceled without prejudice nor disclaimer of subject matter, claims 17-46 having been withdrawn from consideration as a result of a previously-issued restriction requirement, and claims 47-55 having been added. Claims 47-54 further define the invention and also address the Examiner's claim objections and claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Turning now to the art rejections, claims 1, 3-5 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. patent 4,211,066 to *Kusumoto et al.* (*Kusumoto*). Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 12-15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. patent 4,588,305 to *Piguet et al.* (*Piguet*). Claims 2 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on *Piguet* in view of U.S. patent 6,144,621 to *Sase*. While these rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-16, such rejections will be addressed in the context of new claims 47-54.

Kusumoto is directed to a stop watch that includes manually actuatable switches for producing start, stop and reset instruction signals. *Kusumoto*'s stop watch also includes two time measuring and display mechanisms, one for timing of one or more seconds and the other for timing of less than one second.

Piguet is directed to an electronic timepiece. One motor drives the ordinary-time-measuring hour and minute hands, and another motor drives a chronograph sweep second hand, a minute-register hand, and an hour-register hand.

However, neither *Kusumoto* nor *Piguet* discloses nor teaches a mechanical safety mechanism as specified in independent claim 47. With applicants' claimed invention, the reset impossible state of the mechanical return-to-reset mechanism is made to coincide with the reset impossible state of the electrical function and also prevents resetting during measurement of elapsed time. Each of these references also fails to disclose or teach the control sequence that occurs

if the power supply voltage falls below a minimum voltage level required for performing the time measuring function.

Sase's charging type electronic timepiece is configured to return to a correct time display after the recovery of the operating voltage, but it does not offset the deficiencies in either of the primary references.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 47 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references. It is further submitted that each of the pending dependent claims is patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 47.

The indication that claim 11 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is noted with appreciation. Independent claim 55 corresponds to canceled claim 11 rewritten in independent form with no change in scope. It is therefore believed that claim 55 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

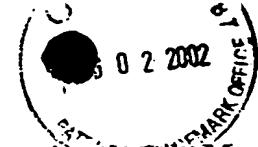
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AMENDMENT A

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Page 2, line 26 – page 2, line 32:

Therefore, when a start signal is output at the push of the start/stop button at a subsequent point T4, measurement recognition (motor pulse output) of the control circuit is started, whereas the safety mechanism is put into the return impossible state. Furthermore, when a stop signal is output at the push of the start/stop button at a subsequent point T5, measurement recognition (motor pulse output) of the control circuit is turned off, whereas the safety mechanism is put into the return impossible state.

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